

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR • EDITOR OF THE YEAR

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THE BUCKS START HERE

\$2 tolls on the way

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's call for \$2 tolls on the East River bridges is already dividing neighbor from neighbor — and pol from pol — in Brooklyn.

The plan to charge drivers for crossing the currently free East River spans is part of Silver's scheme, revealed last Wednesday, that also calls for a downstate payroll tax increase to alleviate the chronic budget shortages of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and avoid steep fare hikes on subways and buses.

In December, a state commission had recommended even higher tolls — plus fare increases — to help shore up the embattled authority.

Borough President Markowitz, whose domain includes the Brooklyn, Manhattan and Williamsburg bridges, denounced Silver's initiative, much like he has with other attempts to put tolls on the viaducts.

"I have always maintained these tolls are discriminatory, impractical and impose an unfair 'tax' on Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx," the Beep, who



Nice bridge, huh? How would you like it with a \$2 toll?

See **TOLLS** on page 11

MARTY'S TOLL TALE

Beep brings bridge battle

The fight over East River bridge tolls raged all week — and Borough President Markowitz, an adamant opponent of charging drivers to enter Manhattan, tried, but failed, to derail the \$2 toll proposal.

In our new feature, The Brooklyn Paper shadowed Markowitz this week to provide readers with a day-by-day synopsis of the Beep's efforts to turn aside what he has called a "discriminatory tax" on outer-borough residents.

Here's how he has followed last week's announcement by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver in favor of charging drivers to cross the bridges:

Thursday
Markowitz begins the assault against Silver's proposal with a press release, but no public appearance.

"I am flabbergasted by recent reports that proposals to toll East River and Harlem River bridges are still on the table," the statement said, expressing shock — shock — despite a state commission that actually recommended

See **MARTY** on page 11

HAIR THEY ARE

Brooklyn to host World Series of beards



A HANDLE(BAR) ON IT: Competitors in next week's beard contest include Natty Adams (left), whose facial hair is a tribute to his Sikh ancestor, and Jack Passion (right), who is considered the Michael Jordan of competitive hair growth. The contest is overseen by Matthew BEARDZZZ Saccaman (center).

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The New York City Beard and Mustache Championship, indisputably the most important contest to take place in Brooklyn since the 1956 World Series, is coming to Williamsburg — just in time for the recession.

Sure, the March 14 contest will feature the world's greatest beards — and the men who wear them — in a fight for facial hair supremacy.

But it is the freshly furry Brooklynites — men who have who lost their jobs and no longer have a reason to shave — who will battle it out in the newly popular "Recession Beard" category.

"The 'Recession Beard' is a salute to corporate America — it's a way to show that you've been laid off, but you want to express your creativity through your beard," said contest organizer Matt BEARDZZZ Saccaman, himself a hirsute hero.

See **BEARDS** on page 12

A roundabout solution

City seeks answers for Park Circle predicament



The city says it will reconfigure Park Circle at the southeast corner of Prospect Park — just in time, say pedestrians.

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The city is dreaming up solutions to the traffic nightmare at Park Circle, the hair-raising roundabout for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and horseback riders at the southwestern entrance to Prospect Park.

Plans are in their infancy to ease confusion around the confluence of busy Ocean Parkway, Fort Hamilton Parkway, the Prospect Expressway, Prospect Park Southwest and Parkside Avenue — plans that may include changing signal times, building pedestrian safety islands, and painting bike lanes and other markings.

The city did a similar makeover of Grand Army Plaza at the other end of the iconic park last year.

"The Department of Transportation [has] solicited numerous ideas from the community about ways to make the circle safer and more easily navigable for pedestrians, cyclists, horse traffic and motor vehicles," said Jennifer Torres, a spokeswoman for the Department of City Planning, which is teaming up with DOT.

The first step was a workshop and presentation to Community Board 7 on Feb. 19.

It couldn't come quick enough for locals.

"The circle is confusing and dangerous. I always have to run to beat the light," said Mireya Zafra, who lives near the rotary. "If I have a stroller, I have to find another place to cross."

It's unpopular with drivers, too.

"I get a lot of road rage when other drivers, especially taxis, don't know what they're doing. Drivers here don't understand roundabouts," fumed John Presley, a Windsor Terrace resident, who drives, but happened to be on foot on Monday afternoon.

See **CONEY** on page 9

Show me the Coney

City plan under attack from all sides

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor Bloomberg's proposal to reshape Coney Island's ramshackle "People's Playground" with rides, attractions, hotels and thousands of apartments collided

with scores of critics in the first public hearing of the controversial plan on Tuesday night — but the biggest challenge could be the unrelenting standoff between the mayor and Coney Island land baron Joe Sitt.

Residents, merchants, amusement enthusiasts and good ol' Coney freaks crammed Community Board 13's public hearing at Lincoln HS on Ocean Parkway to denounce — and, in fewer

See **CONEY** on page 9



Koval quits 'Park'

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Longtime Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy President Marianna Koval has resigned — officially to spend more time with her teenage daughter.

Koval has long pushed for the creation of the controversial, but long-stalled, \$350-million park-and-condo development along the Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO Rivers.

"It's a great project. I'm as impatient as the next person to see it fully built, but I've been delighted to see this process move forward and construction begin," she told The Brooklyn Paper.

See **'PARK'** on page 9

Steve schools 'em!

But DiBrienza's six rivals say he's an old hack

It's been out of politics for more than eight years, but former four-term Steve DiBrienza held a clinic — call it "Campaigning 101" — for the six rivals for the Windsor Terrace seat he used to hold.

The slick-talking DiBrienza, who was term-limited out of office in 2001 and then lost a race for public advocate before becoming invisible on the public scene, announced last month that he wanted his old seat back.

So there he was at last Thursday night's "candidate forum" hosted by the Windsor Terrace Alliance, showing up late, but elbowing his way into the action.

It wasn't what DiBrienza, said to the crowd in Bishop Ford HS on 19th Street — that was mostly boilerplate. But he spoke with the ease and comfort of a longtime political hand.

Then again, one man's old political hand is a political hack desperate to get his job



But whatever the insiders think, the public may be swayed by a sharp-looking, poised candidate who can argue — accurately — that he understands government from the inside out.

That sets him apart from the political newcomers who are his rivals, including front-runners Brad Lander and Josh Skaller, top chal-

lengers Bob Zuckerman and John Heyer, and likely also-ran Gary Reilly.

Of the now-seven people running, only Craig Hammerman, district manager for Community Board 6 and an inductee into the New York City Hall of Fame, has run for office before.

But Reilly dismissed DiBrienza's flair as all style, no substance.

"He was a four-term city councilman, so he should be pretty comfortable," said Reilly, of Carroll Gardens.

For the record, the rest of the pack, all gave solid performances, too.

Lander might have come off even better had he not been keeping his best news close to his vest: He just got endorsed by Community Board 6 Chairman Randy Peert.

That announcement wasn't made until Monday night at Laura's, a Prospect Avenue restaurant. Of course, the Politicrasher was there. The meal was free, after all.



WHAT A NICE GROUP OF GUYS: (from left) Bob Zuckerman, Josh Skaller, Brad Lander, Craig Hammerman, John Heyer and Gary Reilly.



Actor Willem Dafoe, hotter than ever, strolled DUMBO on Wednesday, and even posed for our smitten photographer. Dafoe appeared pleased, too.

DeBlasio backs the Brothers

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Councilman Bill DeBlasio will support a controversial, mixed-income housing development along the fabled Gowanus Canal — the latest indication that the project is steamrolling towards approval.

DeBlasio told The Brooklyn Paper on Tuesday that he supports Toll Brothers' 447-unit mixed-income complex — which has already been rubber-stamped by Community Board 6, Borough President Markowitz and the Department of City Planning — "because it creates permanent affordable housing, open green space and substantial increase in parking."

DeBlasio's support is crucial as the plan enters its final review by the City Council, which was set to hold a hearing today. Councilmembers tend to defer to the local lawmaker on land-use issues.

Technically speaking, the issue before the Council is a rezoning of the current manufacturing-zoned site bounded by Carroll, Second and Bond streets and the canal.

Despite approval by various boards and lawmakers, the project has run into opposition from neighbors who object to the inclusion of 12-story apartment towers on the

See **TOLL** on page 2

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Demolition on Duffield

'Railroad' house is leveled

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

A historic Duffield Street home believed to be a hotbed of Abolitionist activity in the 19th century is being torn down, possibly to make way for the fourth hotel on the Downtown block.

On Monday, V3 Hotels, a company led by twenty-something impresario Ben Nash and Borough President Markowitz's former chief of staff Greg Atkins, started demolishing 231 Duffield St., a few doors away from its planned Hotel Indigo. Sources familiar with the V3's plans told The Brooklyn Paper the company intends another hotel on the street — which, ironically, was renamed by the city "Abolitionist Way" last year.

"V3 is finalizing its plans for the site, and will share them as soon as it's possible to do so," said Atkins in a prepared statement.

It would be the fourth hotel on the one block, between Fulton and Willoughby streets in Downtown. A Sheraton and W Hotel are also rising on the block.

The city cleared the way for new development, including a park and underground parking lot known as Willoughby Square, after issuing a report in 2007 that downplayed the likely



A 19th-century house on Duffield Street was torn down this week.

historic significance of 231 Duffield and several other antebellum row-houses on the block.

But scholars scorned the city's report as flawed. Advocates cite research that suggests that the sub-basement of 231 Duffield is connected to other buildings in the fabled Underground Railroad.

"This is the murder of history and the destruction of a proud moment in American history — people standing up to the odious institution of slavery," said Raul Rothblatt, vocal opponent of the destruction of Duffield Street's history.

The physical remnants of the Abolitionist history of Duffield Street could be reduced to just one house — No. 227 — which has more definitive links to the Underground Railroad than its neighbors and may one day become a museum or historical site. The future of that property is not certain though, because its owner, Joy Chatel, faces personal financial problems.

TOLL

Continued from page 1

canal's western bank. Other foes complained that City Planning would not seriously consider their argument that the polluted waterway is no place for homes.

"[City Planning] make[s] a great show of listening to community members who take time off from work and family to give testimony," fumed Katia Kelly on her Carroll Gardens blog Par-don Me For Asking, which first reported the ruling.

"The decisions are foregone conclusions and an exercise in futility if one opposes development," she wrote.

Community Board 10's listening to some concerns. After approving the project, the board later conditioned that approval on a firm commitment from the developer on the affordable housing component.

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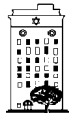
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Shul house rocked!

B'nai Abraham is hit again and again and again

By Evan Gardner
for The Brooklyn Paper

For the second time in a week, someone has broken into a Brooklyn Heights synagogue — and the fed up rabbis are certain that the thief is a former recipient of the temple's kindness.

"I feel violated," said Rabbi Aaron Raskin, who heads Congregation B'nai Abraham, the frequently hit house of worship on Remsen Street. "It's disgusting."

Rabbi Simcha Weinstein added that he felt just as stung by the ordeal, which came on the heels of an attempted break-in at the Jewish center's

basement door last week.

"It feels like a slap on the tuchas," said Weinstein, adding that he was offended by the "big chutzpah" of the perp, using the Yiddish word for con games.

Chutzpah, indeed. According to Raskin, the serial burglar, who is not Jewish, has been causing trouble periodically ever since the synagogue invited him in for a meal and some prayer about five years ago.

"We know who he is, I've met him personally," said Raskin.

"He's a drug addict. We gave him some food a few

years ago and let him come in and pray."

In the latest incident, the burglar smashed the rabbi's office door and rifled the desk, taking \$30 in "nickels and dimes" from charity boxes at around 4 a.m. on March 2, said Raskin, who is also an author.

The rabbi is convinced that the crook is the same person responsible for at least five break-ins at B'nai Abraham since July.

Police would not comment on the attacks, but Weinstein said that cops told him they would increase patrols in the area — something they

did in 2007, after someone spray-painted swastikas on the building's front door. In that case, a suspect, Yavko Ivinov, was arrested last year at a nearby home that contained pipe bombs and a sword-edged shotgun, cops said.

He's awaiting trial.

Now, Weinstein (himself an author) joked that he was considering sleeping to the building "with a baseball bat" to deter the crook.

He also said that the synagogue might consider additional security features beyond the heavy-duty locks and a surveillance camera that were recently installed.



Oy vey! Rabbi Aaron Raskin of Congregation B'nai Abraham works one day after a serial burglar again broke into his Remsen Street synagogue.

Two crimes by the same thug?

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

A thug snatched a woman's cellphone — only to give it back moments later — and then mugged two women minutes later near the Fourth Avenue I-Train station on Feb. 22.

The first victim had been walking home at 11:30 p.m. when he then attacked her from behind near Ninth Street. The thug stole her phone, and then ran about seven feet before giving her the phone back to mean he.

But that doesn't mean he was a good guy. Indeed, he punctuated his phone giveaway by hailing the woman to the ground.

Minutes later, the mugger approached two women on 10th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues and said, "Don't scream or I will kill you."

The victims handed him a total of \$37, and he ran away.

Pocketbook pick

Two men mugged a man and a woman at gunpoint on Garfield Place on Feb. 27, getting away with \$351 worth of stuff — but not for long.

The two victims were between Seventh and Eighth avenues at around 12:25 a.m. when the two perps approached with the gun and initiated the mugger.

The thieves got away with her purse and his wallet, but police collared a man suspected of being one of the burglars on Eighth Avenue — still holding \$85 in his front pocket. The gun was also found on Eighth Avenue, cops said.

Mobile fears

Two bandits snatched the cellphone right out of the hand of a 22-year-old woman on Ninth Street on Feb. 23.

The woman was between Seventh and Eighth avenues at around 3 p.m., yanking away from her mobile device when the perps approached and grabbed it.

Laptop lift

Thieves broke into a Union Street apartment and stole two



Murdered!

A woman's mutilated body was discovered outside a Degraw Street apartment building on Feb. 27, the first murder this year in the 76th Precinct.

The 24-year-old woman's body, with multiple stab wounds to her torso, was discovered on the sidewalk between Columbia and Van Brunt streets at 6:30 a.m. Emergency responders said the victim, who lived in Coney Island, was dead on arrival.

laptops on Feb. 27

The second charge against the 16-year-old stemmed from an attempted mugging at the same location on 8 p.m. on Feb. 24 involving a 30-year-old woman.

The teen was arrested following an incident at a man's apartment on Feb. 25, in which he tapped a 26-year-old woman's laptop.

Sleepy head

A member broke into a man's Garfield Place apartment on Feb. 25 and stole an Xbox 360 — while the tenant slept right through the invasion.

The victim told cops that he'd fallen asleep (how dare him!) at 4 a.m. in his apartment, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, when the thief busted his way through the front door.

Slammed

A crook broke into a Bergen Street apartment, nabbing \$378 worth of stuff on Feb. 24.

The victim left his apartment between Fifth and Sixth avenues, at around 3:30 p.m. and returned three hours later. Two neighbors heard the victim's door slam at around 5:30 p.m., but neither saw anyone leaving the apartment.

The thief made off with an iPod and a cellphone.

— **Emilia Brock**

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

34 hours

Police arrested a revolving-door 16-year-old hoodlum accused of three muggings last week and possibly a suspect in two other remarkably similar robberies in Fort Greene over the span of 34 crime-filled hours.

The first incident that led to an arrest took place just after midnight on Feb. 24 at the corner of Wiloughby Avenue and Washington Park where a woman handed over her iPod after being warned, "Give me your cellphone. I

have a gun."

The second charge against the 16-year-old stemmed from an attempted mugging at the same location on 8 p.m. on Feb. 24 involving a 30-year-old woman.

The teen was arrested following an incident at a man's apartment on Feb. 25, in which he tapped a 26-year-old woman's laptop.

The victim told cops that he'd fallen asleep (how dare him!) at 4 a.m. in his apartment, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, when the thief busted his way through the front door.

The man woke up eight hours later to find his gaming system gone.

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— **Emilia Brock**

POLICE BLOTTER

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90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

Loansharks

Cops nabbed a best-packing thug suspected of attempting to collect dues from a 38-year-old victim on Feb. 24.

The alleged mugger and an accomplice confronted a 38-year-old victim at the corner of Berry and South Second streets near the Kellogg's Diner at around 9:20 p.m.

"Gimme that money you owe me," the crook said, lifting up his jacket to display a firearm.

The victim never saw the gun, but he forked over \$280, according to cops, who caught a 19-year-old suspect later that night.

Computer bugs

Thieves ransacked at least two Williamsburg apartments for computers this week. Here are the graphic details:

• A Manhattan Avenue apartment was burgled of three laptops and \$500 on Feb. 23 after thieves pushed through the front door between Majer and Grand streets at around 3 p.m.

• Burglars broke into a Hope Street apartment on Feb. 24 and snatched an Apple laptop.

The thieves got into the apartment between 8:40 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. and grabbed the iBook computer and its charger before fleeing from the residence, which is between Roehling and Havemeyer streets. — **Ben Muenz**

64TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint-Williamsburg

Water scam

Two scam artists posing as water inspectors took advantage of an 85-year-old Eckford Street woman on Feb. 25 by snatching her cash, wallet, and credit cards.

In the latest version of an old scam, the thieves knocked on the victim's door at around 3:15 p.m. and told her that they needed to check her water pipes, which they claimed were contaminated.

Rise and crime

A woman, roomed from sleep by an intruder inside her St. Felix Street apartment on Feb. 25, was alert enough to wrestle her laptop back from the early morning visitor.

The 22-year-old woke at 7:10 a.m. to find a strange man holding her laptop and Bose docking system inside her home between DeKalb Avenue and Fulton Street.

The burglar tried to smooth things over with the implausible explanation: "I'm just making repairs. I have to install something."

The woman screamed, and the thief dropped the booty and fled.

But moments later, he reentered and nicked the computer. This time, the woman chased him into the hallway and pried it from his grasping arms. She did, however, report losing her iPod in the melee.

Fiat wrong

A handi broke into a Cumberland Avenue on Feb. 25 and stole a flat-screen television.

The resident told cops that he was not home from noon until 4 p.m. When he returned to his crib near the corner of Lafayette Avenue, he saw that his door had been damaged and that his flat was gone.

Phone gone

Three thugs heisted a 14-year-old girl's cellphone on Feb. 25.

The thieves confronted the teen at the corner of North Fifth and Roehling streets at around 1:50 p.m. and asked her where the phone was.

Before she could respond, one of the crooks yanked the T-Mobile phone and fled.

Gun goodbye

A gunman robbed a man flush with cash near the corner of Court and West Ninth streets on Feb. 25.

The victim, 44, said a man with a pistol demanded his wallet, containing \$2,300, at midnight. The highwayman fled in a black sedan.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

82 skidoo

Someone stole a wallet and a \$250 cellphone out of a car parked on 82nd Street on March 1.

The 32-year-old owner of the car told cops she left the vehicle between Ninth and 10th avenues at around noon. When she returned nearly six hours later, she found one of the car's windows had been smashed, and her purse and phone were both missing from the glove compartment. — **Emilia Lavlin**

Gym rat

Someone stole more than \$1,200 from a locker inside of a Third Avenue gym on Feb. 25.

The 35-year-old victim told

police he entered the gym, between 71st and 72nd streets, for his daily workout at around 8:30 a.m. and locked his wallet in a locker. When he returned for his things about two hours later, he noticed the lock had been broken off and his wallet was nowhere in sight.

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Amendment to Bankruptcy Petition Saved Millions!

Good credit, his sister bought a house in the mid 90s to save her family home (which, unfortunately is common these days), the brother did not understand the personal injury lawsuit he filed years earlier, relating to a construction work-site injury in which he was severely injured, as was "tasted" of the case. He is listed in his bankruptcy petition. Unfortunately, the Chapter 13 bankruptcy case was dismissed because the brother could not make the mortgage or bankruptcy plan payments. The house was sold to foreclosure sale.

Interplay between "Closed" and "Open"

At first glance, the court noted that the bankruptcy case was marked "closed." The judge was skeptical that an amendment to the petition could be made because Bankruptcy Rule 1009 provides that "a voluntary petition, list, schedule, or statement may be amended by the debtor as a matter of course at any time before the case is closed."

However, in relying upon the decision in *In re Critical Care Support Services, 2008 WL 137*, it was pointed out that a case can only be "closed" when the case is "closed."

The term "closed," as used in Bankruptcy Rule 1009 and Bankruptcy Code §350, does not encompass "dismissed" cases. Thus, an Order dismissing a case accomplishes a completely different result than an Order closing it would; essentially, upon dismissal of a bankruptcy case, all of the debtor's rights in his property revert back to him.

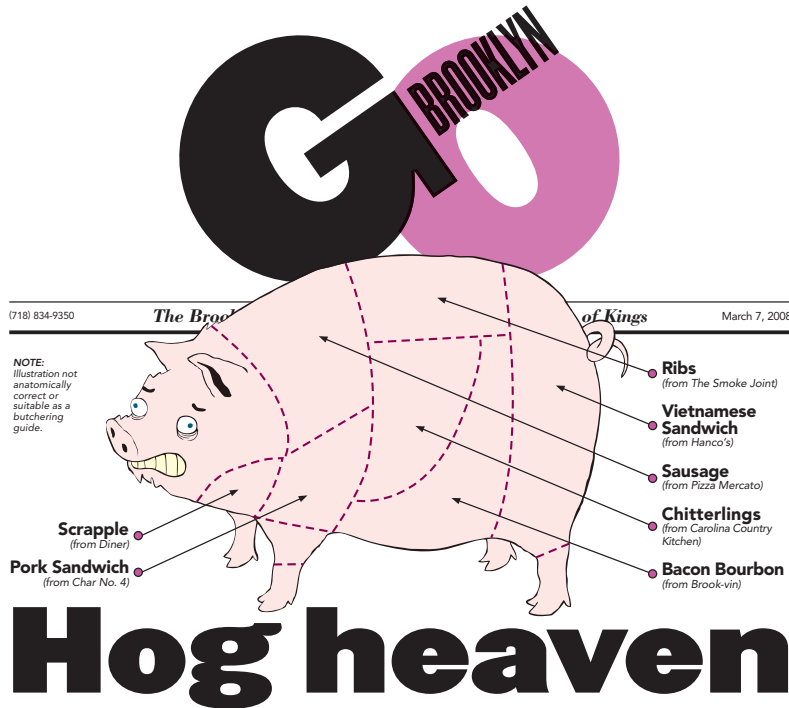
Separately, the court also held that, as part of accepting the debtor's amendment, it could reject the amendment when "the facts and circumstances presented indicated that the amendment was filed in bad faith, fraudulent or prejudicial."

In this case, Judge Craig held that there was no evidence of bad faith, fraud or prejudice; the state court defendant's argument that granting the amendment would "renew" the debtor was not persuasive. In the absence of any evidence that the debtor deliberately omitted the personal injury claim from his schedules to defraud his creditors, permitting the debtor to amend did not reward wrongdoing.

After Judge Craig granted the debtor's motion to amend his bankruptcy petition, the state court defendant argued that the personal injury lawsuit, without their motion to dismiss the case. The plaintiff's case now winding through the New York State Supreme Court towards a trial, in which his serious injuries will be considered by a jury.

— **Richard A. Klas, Esq.**

Richard A. Klas, Esq., maintains a law firm engaged in civil litigation at 16 Court Street, 29th Floor, Brooklyn Heights, New York. He may be reached by phone at (718) 627-5027 or e-mail at rich@klaslaw.com with any questions. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.



To hell with D.C. politicians — here's our guide to pork!

By The GO Brooklyn staff
The Brooklyn Paper

Politicians and pundits inside the Beltway are ranting and raving about all the "pork" in the stimulus package, but as far as we're concerned, the more pork the better.

It's not that we love budgetary waste, but simply that we love the pig. Butter-soft pork shoulder. Smoky, chewy baby back ribs. Goosy trotters. Crispy bacon. Ham on eye.

If it comes off a swine, it's pearls, as far as we're concerned.

Turnout, we're not alone. Brooklyn is a fat-filled heaven, thanks to a new wave of chefs and restaurateurs who aren't afraid to be labeled as supporters of pork.

The good news is that today's pork products are worthy of such slavish devotion. It's been a tough road to redemption for the pig, whose reputation was marred by a famed ill-conceived advertising campaign.

"Nothing did more to injure the reputation of pigs than 'The other white meat' campaign," said Tom Mylan, the butcher at Marlow & Daughters, in Williamsburg, which backs apart carcasses for retail and for several affiliated restaurants, like Diner. Mylan said the unforgettable slogan coincided with the breeding of blind, chicken-like pigs.

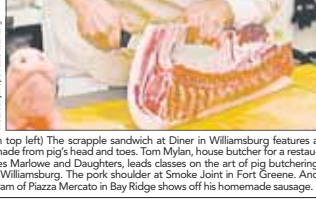
"They tasted like nothing," Mylan squealed. "But that's all history now. So get your knife and fork, tie your napkin under your chin and join us for a guide to the best pork in the borough."

Ham on a roll

If anything positive came out of the French disaster in Indochina, it is the Vietnamese sandwich.

Take uniquely Southeast Asian elements like ground up bits of pork, Vietnamese ham, pickled daikon, carrots and cilantro, and add in distinctly French ingredients like mayonnaise and pate — and then pile it on a freshly baked baguette — and you have a sandwich that at least explains what the hell the French were doing on the other side of the globe.

There's no better place to get your *banh mi* fix than at Hanco's, now with two locations. Hanco's uses a sweet, almost car-



Oink! (Clockwise from top left) The scrapple sandwich at Diner in Williamsburg features a sausage-like product made from pig's head and toes. Tom Mylan, house butcher for a restaurant group that includes Marlow and Daughters, leads classes on the art of pig butchering at Brooklyn Kitchen in Williamsburg. The pork shoulder at Smoke Joint in Fort Greene. And butcher Mohamud Badram of Piazza Mercato in Bay Ridge shows off his homemade sausage.

amelized, ground pork, which stands up to the pickles, pate and spices.

Hanco's [350 Seventh Ave. at 10th Street in Park Slope, (718) 499-8031], 455 Bergen St., east of Smith Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 858-6818]

Tickling those ribs

There are plenty of places to get great Kansas City, St. Louis or Texas ribs in the borough, but Smoke Joint is the only one that specializes in "Brooklyn-style" ribs. Some of the traditional tastes are here, of course, but there's also a distinct hint of the jerk — a tribute to the restaurant's Fort Greene locale.

Though the meatier spare ribs are great, the standout here are the baby-back ribs, which are smoked and then braised in their

own fat — the 'cue equivalent of gilding the lily.

Top them with either the molasses-thick BBQ sauce or the "Holla-pen" version, and you'll be licking your fingers for hours. The Smoke Joint [87 S. Elliot St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 797-1011].

Head case

Hear us now: Give scrapple a break! The pride of Middle American diners — a sausage-like concoction with unspeakable ingredients — is reborn by the geniuses at Marlow and Daughters, the throwback butcher shop on Broadway in South Williamsburg.

Yes, it's made by boiling the head and feet of a pig, picking off whatever meat

you can find, mixing it with polenta, and frying it on a grill, but the result is a mushy mound of satisfaction, a sausage with an almost baggie-like softness.

At Diner, owner Andrew Tarlow offers it whenever he can, piling it high with a fried egg, cheddar cheese, pickled onions and mayo on a brioche or five-grain bread.

"People love it," he said. "Maybe we just have a lot of native Pennsylvanians here."

Perhaps there's a better explanation: the butcher shop uses only Berkshire pork, a heritage breed that has real pig flavor (no "other white meat" marketing blather here). And the cheeks and trotters have a natural goosyness that, when combined with eggs and cheese, results in the perfect breakfast sandwich.

See HOG on page 7

ART

Trash art

The massive Atlantic Yards development project inspires rage in some and hope in others — but in Guy Ambrosino, it inspires a twisted art installation.

The Prospect Heights artist found strips of discarded steel at Bruce Ratner's demolition site and turned them into an installation at the Soapbox Gallery, across the street from the Yards site.

The exhibit, called "What Was," is meant to "document the memory of what was there," said Ambrosino, who works out of a Bergen Street studio.

The piece addresses the tense debate between Ratner and residents, who claim that the developer's stalled complex has caused the very urban blight that the project was supposed to cure.

"Steel is a rigid material that serves as a metaphor for how developers work, how difficult they can be," said Ambrosino.

Art fans said Ambrosino has made something from Ratner's nothing. "I appreciate the piece conceptually," Tamara Iwaszczko said on opening night. "It was created from material that was violently removed from its purpose, and it has been transformed into something elegant and delicate."

Guy Ambrosino's "What Was" will be on display through March 14 at the Soapbox Gallery (636 Dean Street, between Vanderbilt and Carlton avenues). —Aisha Gawad

DINING

3 squares

The problem with your favorite restaurant is that it excels only at one meal a day. But Orline, which just opened on Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, serves all three meals every day, and does it exceptionally well.

So The Brooklyn Paper spent a recent day huddled up in Orline.

Breakfast: With a menu featuring all the breakfast basics, coffee by Crop to Cup, free WiFi, and a steady stream of Dylan coming through the speakers, Orline makes a good first impression. We opted for the granola, a breakfast pizza (pictured, with goat cheese, eggs and pancetta), and Yosi's Shushka, a baked egg dish with tomatoes, peppers and squash, and were completely satisfied. One demerit: Whose idea was serving H&H Bagels?

Lunch: Orline also serves up amazing sandwiches, including sweet sausage with homemade mustard and mushroom and goat cheese.

Dinner: Though weary from (over) consumption, we enjoyed Barbara's mushroom lasagna (named after owner Sarah Beck's mother-in-law) and a spicy curried chicken pot pie (both \$13). The apple crumble was the platonic ideal: crispy, crunchy, chewy, juicy and a bit spicy. In short: uncrumbleable! Or make that scrumblicious.

When That was one great day. Orline [622 Washington Ave., between Pacific and Dean streets in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-0026]. —Gersh Kuntzman

DINING

Bar better

The crew behind the tapas bar Zips Zap has transformed their shop at the corner of Metropolitan Avenue and Berry Street into Barberry — a Mediterranean eatery.

"We have been here five years, so we thought, 'Why don't we do a little change — something geared towards the neighborhood,'" said owner Asu Whiteman, who kept the staff, including Chef Diego Gonzales, from the old eatery.

Look for appetizers including sardines (pictured), and a thinly sliced filet mignon with carpaccio served over toast with fresh manchego, artichokes, and a drizzle of lemon juice (\$8). Entrees include a grilled platter for two with flank steak, chorizo, quail and filet mignon (\$38).

Barberry [152 Metropolitan Ave. at Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 599-3027]. —Ben Muessig

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY March 7	MONDAY March 9	TUESDAY March 10	THURSDAY March 12	FRIDAY March 13
Fatwa man The man has a price on his head, so wouldn't it be something to hear his side of the story? Salman Rushdie, who roused the ire of an Ayatollah, will speak at St. Francis College in Brooklyn Heights about his books and his life as a wanted man. Security should be tight at the Remsen Street institution, but Rushdie will be entertaining, not didactic (unlike the Ayatollah). 12:30 pm. Salman Rushdie at St. Francis College 180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 522-2300. Free. 6 pm. 2191 Days and Counting: PowerHouse Arena 27 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049. \$10. For info, visit www.powerhousearena.com.	Purim fun Break out the hamantaschen, spin the grogger, and get totally wasted, because it's one of Judaism's funnest holy days! To complement the solemnity of such an auspicious Biblical day, Congregation B'nai Avraham in Brooklyn Heights will offer live music, stand-up comedy, and that staple of religious feasts, a martini bar. 5:30 pm. Purimpalooza party. B'nai Avraham 117 Remsen St. between Henry and Clinton streets, (718) 596-4840. Ext. 18. Adults, \$36; children 12 and under, \$10.	Lifesaver A wealthy man seeks redemption in an apocalyptic Los Angeles—it's not just yesterday's headlines. It's A.M. Home's new novel, "The Book Will Save Your Life." In it, the aforementioned money man has it all—until he discovers a giant sinkhole in his backyard and begins to reflect on the gaping chasm in his own life. Sounds like a good book. Better still? The reading includes dinner. 6:30 pm. A.M. Homes reads from "The Book Will Save Your Life." BAM Café 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 230-4100. \$50.	Silent passion "The Passion of Joan of Arc," a 1928 silent film that depicts the French martyr's last hours, will be screened to the live piano tunes of silent film accompanist Donald Sasin. The movie shows the medieval female patriot's trial, torture and execution as a parallel to the passion of Jesus. If that doesn't sound like a fun time, you don't know Joan of Arc! 6:50 pm. "The Passion of Joan of Arc." BAM 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100. \$11.	

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

SAT. MAR. 7

OUTDOORS AND TOURS
BIRDMATCHING: Free. Noon-1:30 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 267-3400.
DISCOVERY TOUR: Meet birds and other wildlife. Free. 3-4 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center (see venue info above).

PERFORMANCE
THEATER, "MABOU MINES DOLL-HOUSE": Deconstructed version of "A Doll's House." \$35-\$50. 2 and 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse 38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779. www.stannswarehouse.org.
THEATER, "THE WINTER'S TALE": Shakespeare's romance. Directed by Sam Mendes. \$30-\$90. 2 pm. BAM Harvey Theater 651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org.
THEATER, "ARSENIC AND OLD LACE": Narrows Community Theater presents the screwball comedy about murderous old ladies. \$15 (\$12 students and seniors). 3 and 8 pm. Salem Lutheran Church 450 67th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Bay Ridge, (718) 482-3173. www.narrowscommunitytheater.com.
THEATER, "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": Mother-daughter drama by Jackie Alexander. \$23 and 8 pm. Billie Holiday Theatre 1348 Fulton St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant. (212) 209-3370. www.billiellodyssey.org.
MUSIC, "GIANNI SCHICCHI": Regina Opera Company presents the Puccini opera, plus opera excerpts. \$20-\$15 seniors. \$5 teens. 7 pm. Regina Hall 65th Street at 12th Avenue in Dyer Heights, (718) 232-3553.
THEATER, "THE CHERRY ORCHARD": Tom Stoppard's version of Chekhov's classic. \$30-\$90. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater 651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org.
BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY: Choreographer Ohad Naharin's "Max." \$20-\$55. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music 30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org.
DANCE WORKS BY ABRAHAM BROWNE, DEVYNN EMORY AND MIRIAM WOLF: \$15. 8 pm. Brooklyn Arts Exchange 421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope, (718) 632-5010. www.bae.org.
HOLLY NEAR WITH EMMA'S REVOLUTION: \$30. 8 pm. First Unitarian Church Pierrepont Street at Monroe Place in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 268-1888. www.brooklyncenteronline.org.
JAZZ: Connection Works Ensemble and the Wyckoff Gordon Quartet. \$15 (\$10 students). 8 pm. Babelian Church 401 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street in Boerum Hill, www.connectionworks.org.
MALE CHOIR OF ST. PETERSBURG: Program of sacred music, folk songs and works by Tchaikovsky, Glinka and Dargomyzhsky. \$30-\$75. 8 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College 1200 Campus Rd. at Hillside Place in Flatbush, (718) 951-4500. www.brooklyncenteronline.org.
CLASSICAL CONCERT: Works by Bach, Tchaikovsky, Brahms and Arensky. \$35 (\$20 students). 8 pm. BargeMusic 1 Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River in DUMBO, (718) 628-0383. www.bargemusic.org.

THURS. MARCH 12
Community Board 1 Public Safety Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. Community Board 1 office 435 Graham Ave. between Front and Richardson streets in Williamsburg, (718) 389-0009.
Community Board 10 Zoning and Land-use Committee. Monthly meeting. 7 pm. Community Board 10 District Office 8119 Fifth Ave. between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827.
SAT. MARCH 14
Columbia Street Waterfront Association. Monthly cleanup of the greenway along Columbia Street. 11:30 am. 140 Columbia St. between Kane and DeGraw streets in Columbia Street Waterfront, (917) 412-0756.
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SAT. MARCH 7
858-4099.
WED. MARCH 11
Community Board 2. Monthly meeting. 6 pm. Congregation Mount Sinai 250 Cadogan Place West between Tillary and Clark streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 596-5400.
Community Board 6. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. Long Island College Hospital 339 Hicks St. near the corner of Atlantic Avenue in Cobble Hill, (718) 643-3007.
Community Board 10 Traffic and Transportation Committee. Monthly meeting. 7 pm. Community Board 10 District Office 8119 Fifth Ave. between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827.

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Flea jumps

Market shifts to Saturday after angering church

By Evan Gardner
for The Brooklyn Paper

The flea market that filled the Bishop Loughlin HS yard every summer Sunday with arts, crafts, food and vintage hotchboxes — and angered a church next door in the process — will be back for a second go-round, but this time on Saturday.

Organizers of the Brooklyn Flea said they were not moving the day of their weekly rummage sale to appease members of the Queen of All Saints Church — but actually an entirely different group of believers: their landlords.

"We operate in the courtyard of Bishop Loughlin across the street [from the church]," said Flea organizer Eric Demby. "The school came to us and suggested that it would be more appropriate to be on Saturday, and we agreed."

"It has nothing to do with what the church was saying," Demby added, saying that last summer's minor friction with the congregation had been settled at a meeting in August.

He added that the Flea will still have its own trash collection service and will continue its free valet bike parking.

Monsignor Andrew Vaccari, the pastor at Queen of All Saints, was not available for comment.



Brownstoner Flea organizers Eric Demby (left) and Jonathan Butler were all smiles when their market opened last April. But now, after a conflict with an area church, they'll hold their weekly bazaar on Saturdays instead of Sunday.

HOG...

Continued from page 5

Unfortunately, one bite and you'll never be able to pull over at a truck stop on I-80 again.

Diner (85 Broadway at Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 466-3077)

Drink it down

There's only one problem with bourbon, as far as our pork-loving team is concerned: you need to put down the glass to pick up your bacon.

Not anymore.

Brian Mitchell, the manager of the new Brook-vin wine bar in Park Slope, has been infusing Jim Beam with bacon fat since the joint opened in January.

The result is not some kind of gimmick — a cocktail that comes with a curly tail instead of a Chinese umbrella. No, the smokiness of the bacon adds a depth that not only cuts through bourbon's over-sweetness, but also stiffens alcohol's thin, medicinal texture with the full mouthfeel that comes only from fat.

"It's subtle," said our drinking buddy, author David Shenk. "You don't want to be drinking a glass of liquid bacon — and I'm not."

Brook-vin (381 Seventh Ave., between 11th and 12th streets in Park Slope, (718) 768-9463)

Tubes of goodness

Pork sausage is usually made from scraps, but at Piazza Mercato the links are prime cuts — and main attractions.

All of the homemade sausage at the Bay Ridge Italian deli are made from fresh cuts of pork shoulder, including cured sausage for snacking (\$12.99 per pound), and sweet sau-



Drinkin' bacon: Brian Mitchell, of Brook-vin, makes a bacon-infused bourbon. Mmm, bacon.

sage, hot sausage, and a house specialty loaded with bits of broccoli rabe for pastas, heroes and sauces (\$4.99 per pound).

Pork shoulder is best for sausages — it's got the right amount of tender fat and lean meat," said co-owner Salvatore Genovese, whose shop is a veritable shrine to swine where cured cuts of pork hang from the ceiling.

Piazza Mercato (9204 Third Avenue between 92nd and 93rd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 513-0071)

Butt on a bun

"Pulled pork" — whether dished in a tomato-y Kansas City BBQ sauce or a North Carolina mustard-vinegar blend or even unadorned like they eat it in Texas — can be one of the most satisfying ways to enjoy the smoky cushion of pork shoulder.

But too often, overcooking leaves all the best pork taste in a pool of liquid fat

http://
Watch us eat chitterlings at BrooklynPaper.com

the bottom of the smoker. That's why chef Matt Greco at Char No. 4 opts for eight hours over the heat, not the typical half-day. The shorter cook time still yields a butter-soft mound of pig, but one that retains its essential porkiness.

Greco pairs his pork with a hybrid sauce — a tomato and mustard-based concoction — that pays homage to the Kansas City and Carolina traditions, then adds on pickled onions and hot peppers. "This is our version of other restaurants' burgers," he said.

Pair it with a glass of rye (it's drier than bourbon, said co-owner Sean Joseph), and the result is pulled pork perfection.

Char No. 4 (196 Smith St., between Baltic and Warren streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 643-2106)

The nasty bits

From nose to tail, every part of a pig is tasty — and the small intestines are no exception.

That explains why chitterlings — a Southern dish made from chewy pork entrails — is one of the most popular items at Carolina Country Kitchen, the famed Atlantic Avenue soul-food buffet.

"Some people are squeamish about it, because it's the pig's intestines," said manager Charlie Lanham. "But throw a little barbecue sauce and a little vinegar in there and it's good to go."

Carolina Country Kitchen (1993 Atlantic Ave. at Saratoga Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 496-0200)

Quiche Melissa

Bakin' bacon a key part of this dish

By Melissa Murphy
for The Brooklyn Paper

Clearly, The Brooklyn Paper has gone hog wild — so how could I refuse to offer the best savory pork recipe on the Sweet Melissa menu: Quiche Lorraine.

There are a few basic components that make this savory tart so special: a buttery crust, a light but decadent egg custard, deeply nutty Gruyere, and earthy sweet caramelized onions.



Hog heaven

I tried the slab bacon from Staubitz Meat Market and Espino's Jersey Pork Store, both on Court Street — they were equally delicious (after all, we are talking about bacon here!), and the pork's sweet smoke perfumed the custard in a way that nothing else simply can.

Quiche Lorraine is the very first savory item that I put on Sweet Melissa's opening menu almost 11 years, and remains our most popular dish today. Enjoy!

Melissa Murphy is the chef/owner of Sweet Melissa Patisserie (179 Seventh Ave., between First and Second streets in Park Slope, (718) 502-9153; 276 Court St., between Butler and Douglass streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 855-3410). Full menu at www.sweetmellisaspatisserie.com.



Savory Melissa: Melissa Murphy, owner of the Sweet Melissa Patisserie, also makes a mean Quiche Lorraine (it's all in the bacon!).

Quiche Lorraine

Makes one quiche

- Pre-baked 9-inch flaky pastry crust (see recipe below)
- 1 slice slab bacon, 1/2-inch thick (approximately 1/4 pound)
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves stripped from stem
- 3/4 cup grated Gruyere cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1 egg yolk
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- Freshly grated nutmeg (about seven swipes across the microplane)
- 3/4 cup heavy cream
- 3/4 cup milk

Center a rack in the oven. Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees.

Slice the bacon into quarter-inch lardons. In a small saute pan over medium low heat, slowly cook the bacon until some of the fat is rendered and the bacon begins to turn golden. Do not make the bacon too crispy or it will be hard in the quiche.

Reserve the bacon fat, and set the bacon aside to drain on a paper towel.

Over medium low heat, gently cook the onion in two tablespoons of the reserved bacon fat. Season the onions with a salt and pepper,



and cook slowly until the onions are caramelized, but not dry. Set aside to cool.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs, yolks, salt, pepper, cayenne, nutmeg, cream and milk. Place the pre-baked pie crust on a cookie sheet.

Sprinkle the prepared bacon evenly over crust.

Spread the onions over the bacon. Sprinkle thyme leaves over the onions and then add the cheese over the thyme. Pour the custard over. Bake for 40-45 minutes, until the custard is set and the quiche is golden brown.

Let cool to warm before slicing.

Flaky pastry shell

Makes two crusts

- 2-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 3/4 tsp kosher salt
- 1 cup cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 6 to 8 tablespoons ice water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt to combine. Add the butter pieces, tossing with your fingers to coat each cube in the flour. Using a pastry blender, cut the butter into the flour until it is the size of medium peas.

Sprinkle six tablespoons of the water over the mixture and toss with a fork. The dough should hold together when you squeeze it in your hand. If it is too dry, add the rest of the water (or more if absolutely necessary).

Turn dough out onto your work surface. Pat it together into one piece. Divide the dough into two equal parts, flatten each into a round disk, and then wrap tightly in plastic wrap.

Refrigerate for 20-30 minutes before rolling. Roll dough to 1/4-inch thickness and fit into the pie plate. Fold the edges under and crimp as desired. Refrigerate an additional 30 minutes.

Line the crust with parchment paper and then fill with pie weights (dried lentils work). Bake for 30-40 minutes until golden. Set aside to cool.

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6
SUN, MAR. 8

Daylight Savings Time begins
OUTDOORS AND TOURS
DISCOVERY TOUR: See Saturday, March 7.

PERFORMANCE
THEATER, "THE CHERRY ORCHARD": 2 pm. See Saturday, March 7.
CLASSICAL CONCERT: Works by Tchaikovsky and Brahms. \$35 (\$20 students). 2 pm. Poly Prep Country Day School (92nd Street and Seventh Avenue in Bay Ridge). www.brooklynymphonyorchestra.org.
MUSIC, "GIANNI SCHICCHI": 3 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra performs Glen Gould's "The Banquet" (plus work by Beethoven and Beethoven). \$15 suggested. 2 pm. Poly Prep Country Day School (92nd Street and Seventh Avenue in Bay Ridge). www.brooklynymphonyorchestra.org.
THEATER, "MABOU MINES DOLL HOUSE": 4 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC: Concert of female composers. Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope). (718) 230-2100.

THEATER, "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": 4 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

THEATER, "THE WINNER'S TALE": 7:30 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

BROOKLYN WINTER HIDEAWAY: Features Sutter's "Success" and "The Dearly Beloveds." 7:30 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

SALES AND MARKETS
WINTER ANTIQUES MARKET: See Saturday, March 7.

RUMMAGE SALE: See Saturday, March 7.

OTHER
TALK, "MUSLIM WOMEN MOVING MOUNTAINS": Robina Niaz speaks about domestic violence. Free. 11 am. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope). (718) 768-2972. www.bsec.org.

OPEN STUDIOS: Noon-6 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

PURIM CARNAVAL: 5:15-10:30 pm. Park Slope Jewish Center (1320 Eighth Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope). (718) 768-1453.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: Film and speakers talk. 6 pm. First Unitarian Church (48 Monroe Pl. in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 769-8901. www.brooklynwomen.org.

CURATOR TALK: Rula Kana speaks about "Ecstatic Truth," exhibit of work by Janine Laker and Julia Ruland. Free. 7 pm. DUMBO Arts Center (30 Washington St. between Plymouth and Water streets in DUMBO). (718) 389-9977. www.dumboatcenter.org.

MON, MAR. 9
Purim begins at sunset
TALK, SALMAN RUSHDIE: Acclaimed Indian author. Free. 12:30 pm. St. Francis College (110 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights).

TUES, MAR. 10
Purim
PURIMPALOOZA: Party with live music, comedy, food and drinks. 5:30-10 pm. 12th Avenue (12th Ave. at 53rd St. between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights).

THURS, MAR. 12
READING, A.M. HOMES: Author of "This Book Will Save Your Life." Includes dinner. \$50. 6:30 pm. BAM Cafe (147 Lafayette Ave. at 14th St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights).

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Bas relief: Thirty-eight works by the young Turk of Miami, Hernan Bas, are on display at the Brooklyn Museum through May 26.

streets in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 598-4840 ext. 18.

READING, DANIEL BERGER: Author of "The Other Side of Deers." Free. 7 pm. BookCourt (163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill). (718) 875-3677. www.bookcourt.org.

GOLDEN GLOVES BOOING: Sponsored by Glee's Gyns. \$25. 7 pm. Brooklyn Masonic Temple (317 Clermont Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene). www.brooklynmasonic.org.

COMMON IN CONCERT: With Jasmine Sullivan and Sereni. \$39.50-\$55. 8 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene). (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org.

WED, MAR. 11
TALK, NORA HERTING: Photographer talks about her "Face of Brooklyn" series. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society (128 Piermont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 222-4111. www.brooklynhistory.org.

READING, SIMON CRITCHLEY: Author of "The Book of Dead Philosophers." Free. 7 pm. BookCourt (163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill). (718) 875-3677. www.bookcourt.org.

READING, JENNIFER E. LEE: Author of "The Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food." Free. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO). (718) 666-3346. www.powerhousearena.com.

LENTIL LECTURE SERIES: Dr. Carole M. Epstein speaks on spiritual topics. 10:15-11:30 pm. Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (55 Cranberry St. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 625-1101.

READING, ALPINE MCCURT: Author of "A Long Stone's Throw." Free. 8 pm. BAM Cafe (147 Lafayette Ave. at 14th St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights).

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Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg. (718) 752-2532.
READING, LAURA LIPPMAN: Author of "The Sentence." Free. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO). (718) 666-3346. www.powerhousearena.com.
READING, SHYKIA BELL: Author of "Camille." Free. 7 pm. Barnes & Noble Park Slope (147 Seventh Ave. at Fifth Street in Park Slope). (718) 832-9060.
MUSIC, "OCH TALKS": See Thursday, March 12.

THEATER, "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": 8 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Celloist Jeffrey Solow. \$25. \$20 seniors. \$15 students. 8 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River in DUMBO). (718) 624-2033. www.bargemusic.org.

MUSIC, RUSSIAN ROMANTICS: One World Symphony presents works by Beethoven and Tchaikovsky. \$60 (\$30 students and seniors). 8 pm. St. Ann's Church (157 Montague St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights). www.oneworldsymphony.org.

JAZZ: Charles Evers/Neil Shah Duo and Language Of. \$10 (suggested). 9 pm and 11 pm. Beasm Studio (148 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Greenpoint). beasmstudio.com.

SAT, MAR. 14
OUTDOORS AND TOURS
BIRDWATCHING: Noon pm. See Saturday, March 7.

DISCOVERY TOUR: 3 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

PERFORMANCE
THEATER, "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": 3 and 8 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

MUSIC, "GIANNI SCHICCHI": 3 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

THEATER, "A PERFECT WEDDING": Reading of Charles L. Men's play presented by Brave New World Repertory Theatre. 511. 2 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

JAZZ: Ron Jackson's "Tubby Dubby." \$10. 8 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music (18 Seventh Ave. between State and State streets in Downtown Park Slope). (718) 622-3300. www.brooklynconservatory.org.

ST. PETERSBURG QUARTET: Works by Mendelssohn, Shostakovich and Schubert. \$25. \$20 students and seniors. 8 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River in DUMBO). (718) 624-2033. www.bargemusic.org.

JAZZ: Harris Eisenstadt's Woodblock Prints and John Barba Trio. \$10 (suggested). 9 pm and 10 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

SALES AND MARKETS
WINTER ANTIQUES MARKET: See Saturday, March 7.

RUMMAGE SALE: See Saturday, March 7.

OTHER
PET ADOPTION EVENT: Free. 11:30 am-4:30 pm. Salem Lutheran Church (455 67th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Bay Ridge). (718) 198-1342.

FILM, "BEFORE NIGHT FALLS": Julian Schnabel's 2000 film stars Javier Bardem. Discussion follows. 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Street). (718) 638-5000. www.brooklynmuseum.org.

FILM, "DAY OF WRATH": \$11. 2 pm. March 12. U. "Paperboy" Read and the True Lives, with the Sweet Queens. Jenny Day & the Didi-Quents and DJ Finefine. 7:30 pm. \$12. March 12. The Pains Of Being Pure At Heart, with Let's Wistle and Knight School. 8 pm. \$10.

TALK, FEMINIST ARCHAEOLGY: 44 Union Ave. at Midway Avenue. (718) 659-0484. www.myspace.com/unimpo.

GREENPOINT
Bar Matchless
357 Manhattan Ave. at Driggs Avenue. (718) 383-5333. www.barmatchless.com.

Club Europa
March 7. Someone's Eyes, Shurika, Revenge of the Dragon, Jett Black Heart Attack. 8 pm.

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The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

THE PARK SLOPE DAY CAMP

PARK SLOPE • WINDSOR TERRACE • BAY RIDGE

It was highly unusual, the rooms of Park Slope almost never get sick. But last Tuesday, they were dropping like flies. Smartmom got a cell-phone call from Divorce Diva, who had said she had a case of laryngitis that Smartmom could barely understand her tortured whisper. But she did manage to decipher the following:

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For more info, contact Angela Long at (917) 609-9899 or languagekids@earthlink.net

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Unthinkable: S'mom catches a bad cold



By Louise Crawford

And that's what she did, off and on, for the next five days. Every morning, she woke up and thought she felt better. Every day, she realized that she was still sick and had to get back into bed. How did the family react?

Teen Spirit sounded sincerely concerned when he breezed through the apartment every 20 hours or so on route to his internship at Showplace, a band rehearsal, or food with friends at Domino's.

Then, the unthinkable: Smartmom developed chills during her Alexander Technique session at Alexander Junction. Afterwards, she ordered her water at "Sauce and salt sipping it in her coat, hat, gloves and scarf."

But nothing seemed to warm her up.

When she got home, she got into bed — under that blanket and one patchwork quilt. But still, better.

When the Oh So Feisty One got home from school, she was in shock. She couldn't remember the last time her mother was sick.

Of course, it did happen. Once it was back in January, 2005, when Smartmom had a runny nose, sore throat, vertigo, an earache, body aches, and did dizziness.

In other words, she felt like the list of symptoms on a cold medicine package.

The times when Smartmom has been sick have been rare and far between, but that doesn't mean she doesn't get headaches, stomachaches, and other fleeting ailments from time to time.

It's just that she's older soldiers through original warts that she's feeling.

Don't worry. She'll just sit here in the dark, as the old Jewish motherly light bulb goes.

Last Tuesday was an exception. Feeling alternately feverish and cold with a host of flu symptoms, she got into bed with "Wings of the Dove," the long Henry James novel she's been trying to finish for weeks. She tried to read, but all she felt like doing was sleeping.

clothes all the way down to the washer/dryer in the basement and the stretching," said Charlie. "Empty your head. Take two Advil 9:30 and go to bed (large glass of water at bedside)."

Who's going to fill the empty dishwasher? Who's going to remind Hepcat to make dinner? Who's going to clean up after dinner's Grills?

Who's going to...?

OK, so Smartmom feels indispensable. Sometimes she even feels like an underappreciated domestic slave (just like her friends).

But this time, Smartmom and her gang had no choice but to succumb to this ruthless bug.

Most of all, they were glad to be able to communicate with each other by phone, e-mail, text, Facebook and even comments on The Brooklyn Paper's Web site during their time of need.

Divorce Diva called, laryngitis and all, with hourly reports about her condition. What seemed like a common cold morphed into a full-on strep.

Then her eyes were swollen shut and she rushed to the doctor.

"You won't believe it, I have strep in my throat," she told Smartmom hoarsely.

Warm and Funny, meanwhile, teased Smartmom that she received a diagnosis of bronchitis.

Later, she alerted to what the antibiotics did nothing to alleviate her symptoms.

Her friends were trading, and she had to think of all sorts of creative ways to get her son to and from school. Smartmom even posted on Facebook about how she was feeling, and got a bunch of nice responses from friends:

"Stop trying to work, etc."

Strangely, Smartmom's flu, like the economy, seemed to get worse before it got better. On Sunday, she dragged herself to the Brooklyn Museum to see "Mabon Mins Dollhouse," an avant-garde rehashing of Ibsen's classic play.

In this version, all the women are played by actresses over 6-feet and the men are all played by dwarfs.

Such as the ennobled Ibsen's feminist masterpiece, she started to have the chills again and had to leave at intermission.

When she got home she had a fever of 101.

Back to bed she went. But first, she texted Divorce Diva and Warm and Funny.

"Relapse: Fever 101. This thing really lingers on!"

Once again, Smartmom lay under three blankets and a patchwork quilt. Once again, she had given into it 9:30 and stop fighting.

Maybe it was a good lesson for all of Mom's need to get sick every now and again. It's not good to model too much stoicism (martyrdom is so attractive).

1:30 am: Discover birds. Need to show the kids that it's OK to break down. Otherwise, the next generation will have weird expectations of women. They'll expect them to be superwomen when it's perfectly fine to be the real, flesh and blood human kind.

So what if nothing gets done? Maybe I'll teach their spouses and their kids to do things for themselves.

FAMILY CALENDAR

To list your event, visit: www.brooklynpaper.com/section/9/events/submit/

SAT, MARCH 7

10 am and 11:30 am: Chocolate Chip Chamber Music: 57 Old First Reformed Church (126 Seventh Ave. at Carroll Street in Park Slope, (718) 338-8303, www.chocolatchipmusic.org

11:30 am: Discover the

kinds of New York City. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, www.brooklynkids.org

11:30 am and 3 pm: Hindu

springtime celebration. The-dye-a-banda. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, www.brooklynkids.org

12:30 and 2:30 pm:

Puppet show: "Sleeping Beauty." 517 East 12th Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391, puppetworks.org

1 pm: Nature Crafts. Free.

Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400, www.prospectpark.org/audubon

1 pm: Children learn about

the Brooklyn Bridge and make a model to take home. 510 Brooklyn Historical Society (129 Pier-report St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 224-4111, www.brooklynhistorical.org

2 pm: Learn about wall-

ruins. 524 (516 members). New York Aquarium (202 Surf Ave. between W. Eighth and W. Fifth streets in Coney Island, (718) 265-2474, www.nyaquarium.com

3 pm: Dancewave Kids

Celebration of Arab and Israeli cultures. 820 E 12 St. at Kurland Theater at Long Island University (1 University Plaza at Willowbury Street in Downtown, (718) 488-1424)

SUN, MARCH 8

9:30 am: Behind-the-scenes look at keepers at the Aquarium. 524 (516 members). New York Aquarium (202 Surf Ave. between W. Eighth and W. Fifth streets in Coney Island, (718) 265-2474, www.nyaquarium.com

11:30 am: Discover birds.

Need to show the kids that it's OK to break down. Otherwise, the next generation will have weird expectations of women. They'll expect them to be superwomen when it's perfectly fine to be the real, flesh and blood human kind.

1:30 pm and 3 pm: Hindu

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1 pm: Nature Crafts. See

Saturday, March 7.

1:30 pm and 3 pm: Kids

look-illustrator Betty Day will read and make a book. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, www.brooklynkids.org

SUN, MARCH 15

9 am: Breakfast With the Animals. \$32 (52 members). Includes human breakfast. New York Aquarium (202 Surf Ave. between W. Eighth and W. Fifth streets in Coney Island, (718) 265-2474, www.nyaquarium.com

11 am and 3 pm: Kids

crafts market. See Saturday, March 14.

11:30 am and 3 pm: Learn

about leaves. See Saturday, March 14.

Noon: TheatreSports

improv. 58 kids (adults free). Gallery Players (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101, galleryplayers.com

1-4 pm: Bell House Rocks.

See Sunday, March 8.

1 pm: Behind the Scenes at

the Aquarium. See Sunday, March 8.

1 pm: Nature Crafts. See

Saturday, March 7.

12:30 and 2:30 pm:

"Sleeping Beauty." See Saturday, March 7.

1:30 pm and 3 pm:

Children's book illustrator Betty Day. See Saturday, March 14.

4 pm: Nan Richardson

reads from "Tibid Alpha-bet." Free. PowerHouse Arena (17 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049, www.powerhousearena.com

6-7:30 pm: BINGO/Board

Game Night. See Sunday, March 8.

CONEY PLANNING...

Continued from page 1

cases, endorse — Bloomberg's vision, which is actually a revised offering from an initial plan that provoked stifling resistance from Sitt. The current plans calls for city-owned theme park bordered by privately built hotels and year-round attractions like bowling alleys and movie theaters in the area between Koyan Park and the Cyclone roller coaster.

Testimony from Sitt's lawyer, Jesse Masry, had attendees on the edge of their seats. Expecting fireworks, the attorney did not disappoint and blasted the plan that was largely crafted to settle the dispute between his client and the mayor over the control of Coney Island's destiny.

"In light of the decades of neglect and current economic climate, there has perhaps never been a more important time to get Coney... on the right track," said Masry. "Regrettably, the proposal before you falls significantly short of such a goal."

Masry's submitted testimony blasted several aspects of Bloomberg's plan, such as its need to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to acquire private land (namely Sitt's), potential difficulties obtaining state legislation regarding a long-term theme park operator on parkland and the prohibition of retail stores from the core amusement area.

"The city's proposal will almost certainly doom [the amusement area] to fur-

Zigun, the founder of the Coney Island Circus Sideshow.

Zigun supported the city's initial proposal for a 15-acre amusement park, but that plan became bogged down because Sitt did not want to sell his beachfront property to the city for the new amusement park.

To break the impasse, the city deeded the area for outdoor rides to nine acres and enlarged the zone for private developers.

Interestingly enough, one of Sitt's attorneys had responded to Zigun's testimony that the city's plans, though different reasons.

"This plan was significantly watered down and the interests of amusement industry were betrayed," argued

empty lots by loosening the definition of amusement zoning to allow more attractions besides rides.

"The plan is a step, if not a leap, in the right direction," said Dennis Voudaris, the owner of Deno's Wonder Wheel, the only remaining theme park in Coney Island since AstroLand closed last year.

Pessimistic observers, who have seen other Coney revitalization projects come and go through the decades, said this plan to restore the faded playground's past glory won't get off the ground either.

The pie-in-the-sky promises of the current rezoning are all too familiar," said Charlie Denison, who wrote the city's official history book "Coney Island Lost and Found."

A core battle has been over what variety of rides, attractions and hotels would be permitted, but for many Coney Island residents this is a fight to improve their neighborhood, which is beset with high crime rates, poverty and limited employment opportunities.

"I'm for the redevelopment of Coney Island — but [fix] the west end first," an area resident, Ken Jones, said to applause.

Many other Coney denizens said the city's plan neglected their hard-earned corner of the neighborhood, while others supported the Bloomberg plan, because of the prospect of construction jobs and later, permanent employment from the rides, hotels and retail outlets that crop up.

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'PARK' QUIT...

Continued from page 1

The Conservancy is officially responsible for event and activity programming, such as the popular outdoor summer movies series near the Brooklyn Museum and last year's cantina at the foot of Old Fulton Street.

It also ran the floating pool two summers ago, though that amenity was in the Bronx last summer.

Koval has been one of chief advocates for the park, and along with it, the contentious 1,200 luxury apartments and 225-bed hotel inside of Koval's skipper, who was ousted as the park's annual upkeep.

Koval, who is single, says she wants to lighten the park to spend more time with her daughter.

"I've given my heart and soul to this park for the last 10 years," the Conservancy skipper, who was ousted as the park's annual upkeep.

"I've given my heart and soul to this park for the last 10 years," the Conservancy skipper, who was ousted as the park's annual upkeep.

Construction of Brooklyn Bridge Park has been delayed for almost the entirety of Koval's reign. Based on an original funding agreement between Mayor Bloomberg and then-Gov. Paterson, the 1.2-mile silver was to be built by the end of 2012 at a cost of \$150 million.

Now the park is \$200 million over budget and at most, only a portion will be done in the next three years while key pieces like a boating area, lawns and space for court sports await future funding.

All of the new apartment units, hotel and the Empire Stores mall — all of which comprise the main revenue source for the park's annual operating costs — are also delayed.

Yet her departure comes during the supposed turning point in the park's history.

The first major pieces of the park, on piers near the base of the Brooklyn Bridge and at the foot of Atlantic Avenue, are scheduled for completion this year.

Brooklyn Bridge Parkologists may interpret her resignation as a sign that these first phases may again be off-track and thus Koval's event coordinator duties have also been pushed off to the horizon.

"Why would she leave now if the park is really going to be open this year?" wondered one longtime critic of the current park plan.

But Koval and her backers on the Conservancy's board rejected the idea she threw in the towel in frustration.

"It's not tied to the speed of this project," said David Kramer, the chairman of the Park Conservancy.

"We're moving forward."



The city says that its plan to rezone Coney Island will spur massive development, including housing, hotels and amusements.

DUMBO BUILDS

DEVELOPING STORIES

Marty's Dock St. tower unites all — against it!

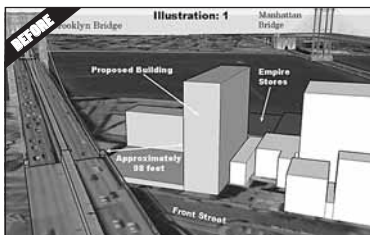
By Ben Muesig

In an attempt to save views of the Brooklyn Bridge, Borough President Markowitz did the impossible this week, uniting opponents, supporters and even the builders of a controversial DUMBO development — against his plan.

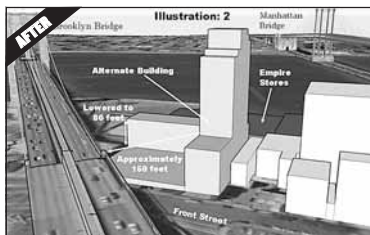
Last week, Markowitz backed developers David and Jed Walentas's bid for a controversial zoning change that would allow them to erect a residential building close to Roebbing's famed span — so long as they make the building thinner in an effort to lessen its visual impact on the iconic bridge.

But Markowitz's recommendation for the planned 18-story building — which is similar in height to existing former factory and warehouse structures in DUMBO — would actually allow the developers to build much higher, up to 25 stories.

And that taller, skinnier



Borough President Markowitz supports David and Jed Walentas' bid for a residential tower on Dock Street—but Markowitz would substitute the Walentas 18-story tower (left) for a thinner, but taller, building that he says will protect views of the Brooklyn Bridge. Problem is, no one likes the Beep's proposal.



building is the part that angered Dock Street opponents, supporters, and the builders of the 375-unit residential and public middle school development.

Markowitz certainly built a consensus, albeit a negative one, around his plan.

• Dock Street supporter Councilwoman Letitia James: "The borough president's recommendation results in more challenges, not less."

• Dock Street opponent Bill Stein: "What the borough president has tried to do is make the best of a bad

idea, but in the end, a tower, is a tower. It is still inappropriate."

• Dock Street supporter Eileen Mislove: "The Walentas proposal is within the scale of [existing DUMBO buildings]. A tower [such as Markowitz's] would be more of an interference — especially to the sense of the openness. It would block the light and the air."

• Dock Street opponent Debra Gallo, Executive Director of the DUMBO Neighborhood Association: "This contradicts his earlier statement that nothing should be higher than the [roadway] on the bridge. He missed the mark with it."

• Dock Street builder Jed Walentas's lawyer Ken Fisher: "[It's] an interesting solution to some of the community's concerns, but not one that would meet much favor if we proposed it to you."

He said a Wednesday hearing before the City Planning Commission.

• Walentas's Dock Street architect, Laura Cheng: "The moves that are suggested by the borough president are in fact not in context to the neighborhood."

Also out of context would be a much taller hotel, which Walentas could build without a zoning change.

Markowitz, who is not an architect, cited that fact in standing behind his suggestions this week, saying that he supported the Walentas request for a rezoning in order to prevent them from building a tall hotel without any comment from the community.

"I rejected the proposal outright... the result could be that development could proceed with no community input," said the Beep, alluding to his merely advisory role in the city's land-use review process.

"It is unacceptable to me when it comes to the iconic Brooklyn Bridge to have such uncertainty when there is an opportunity to steer the developer to revise plans voluntarily," he added.

The debate over Markowitz's nuanced position on Dock Street started almost as soon as he issued his recommendation last week.

In it, he had said that a thinner tower would "reduce 57 percent of [the Walentas] proposal's bulk." That, coupled with his recommendation that the developers set back their high-rise 70 feet from Front Street and 150 feet from the bridge roadway, would result in a building that will "respect the iconic Brooklyn Bridge by not allowing a 'rival' structure to rise too close to it [and] preserve public views."

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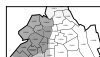
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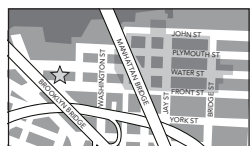


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The short list
DUMBO is split over the city's rezoning scheme

A plan to rezone a swath of east DUMBO does not include the controversial Dock Street building (star).

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

DUMBO residents and merchants are divided over a proposed city rezoning for a swath of the less-walkable portion of the neighborhood east of the Manhattan Bridge that will allow old manufacturing buildings to be converted into residential lofts and let developers build new apartment buildings as high as 12 stories.

Supporters say the city plan would bring more life into what is still a relatively isolated community more than 20 years after artists quietly started occupying derelict warehouses down under the Manhattan Bridge overpass.

"It's such a positive for DUMBO because it will allow for the potential for more families and businesses to come to the neighborhood. That will add more foot traffic and that's good for our local businesses," said Kate Kerrigan, executive director of the DUMBO Improvement District, a business group.

Kerrigan pointed out that several small merchants, such as the children's store Modern Toys and furniture shop Journeys, have closed or will close inside the area targeted for development by the city.

But critics say that the Department of City Planning proposal would allow developers to further erase the gritty charm of what has become one of the most posh neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

"It's going to be catastrophic," he added.

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OUR OPINION

Central' departure

The news this week that Marianna Koval had resigned from her position as head of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy should not be treated as merely inside baseball or the shuffling of yet another bureaucratic deck.

Her departure after 10 years is nothing short of an indictment of a process that has gone on too long with virtually nothing to show for it — and we wouldn't blame Koval if she finally saw the truth.

In her 10 years, Koval has done a good job of scheduling movies and concerts in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, as well as programming events and introducing venues like the much-loved floating pool and last summer's "pop-up" park along the Furman Street Piers.

But Koval was also one of the staunchest advocates for the Empire State Development Corporation's decision to finance maintenance of the project's open-space component by putting luxury condos, a hotel and a shopping center inside the footprint of the so-called park.

This decision — and Koval's advocacy of it — is the reason that the project is virtually dead now.

From a budget of \$150 million just a few years ago, the development is now slated to cost more than \$350 million, with nowhere near that allocated so far. State officials say that towers on Pier 1 (at the foot of Fulton Street) and Pier 6 (at the foot of Atlantic Avenue) will be completed by the end of the year. But then, they've made promises before — and that's a single permanent piece of the project has been completed.

In addition, most of the park's revenue-generating uses — the hotel, roughly 800 of the 1,200 units of housing, and the Empire Stores mall — are hopelessly delayed.

It's no wonder Koval now says she wants to spend more time with her daughter. As parents ourselves, we can obviously empathize with that desire, but if the state really intended to complete large sections of the park by the end of 2009,

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

Brooklyn Bridge work is like a root canal

To the editor,

I've been driving for over 45 years and rarely in that 45 years has the Brooklyn Bridge been completely open to traffic in both directions ("The fix is in. Bklyn Bridge repairs cost much more," online, March 2).

If you had a construction job working on the bridge, you would have retired and the work will still be uncompleted. Now new construction is scheduled for next year — what are motorists supposed to do, jump up and down because it will be done in three years instead of four?

It's a pity that we seem to be spending good money on bad projects. I would like to know how much money over the last 45 years has been dumped into what I see as wasteful projects. The city could have built a new bridge and connected it to the roadways and then saved the Brooklyn Bridge as a monument.

Now there is talk of putting a toll of \$2 on the bridge to stop it from traffic while the construction work is being done. It's time for the politicians in Albany to wake up and see first-hand what motorists have been suffering with for over 45 years.

What should be done is build a new bridge and put people back

to work under the stimulus plan. That's how things get better. Constantly repairing the bridges is like putting money in your Edgel.

Edward F. Ulan,
neighborhood watchdog

Byrd soars

To the editor,

I could not agree more with Francis Byrd's letter objecting to the Brooklyn Paper's Feb. 5 editorial calling for the use of precious federal stimulus dollars for the arena at Atlantic Yards ("Another stunned response to arena editorial," letters, Feb. 2).

We are in a time of crumbling schools, bridges, and roads, and

she's supposed to be a writer, she should know how to deal with a reasonable critique.

Smartmon has consistently proven to be a bad stereotype of Park Slope parents, as well as the weakest aspect of The Brooklyn Paper, and her recent temper tantrum over something any self-respecting writer should be used to is an all-time low and a waste of paper.

Andrew Wiggins, Park Slope

Skip to the sloo

To the editor,

The Landmark Preservation Commission held a public hearing March 3 on the proposed automated pay toilet at Grand Army Plaza ("The GAP Crapper," Feb. 28).

I feared this installation might jeopardize the placement of the returning 1869 Lincoln statue to a spot on the Plaza's axis which would respect the 1865 plan of Stranahan, Vaux, and Olmsted. The site selected is near the heavily used B41 bus stop across Flatbush Avenue from the Library. There is no visual impact on or from the park or Plaza.

I praised the proposal, but also offered an anecdotal alternative. Informing the Commission members of the perfect alignment

along the Plaza's axis of the Empire State Building, Bailey Fountain, Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Arch and the mirror inside Prospect Park, I continued with a little known history.

The Plaza opened in October, 1867, with a single jet of water as its centerpiece. Four months earlier, in a progress report on the Plaza, the long-defunct Brooklyn Eagle (not to be confused with the newspaper that bears that name today) referred to the jet as the "Fountain of the Golden Spray."

This name means exactly what you might expect. Olmsted and company would applaud a public toilet on that spot as proof that we, in 2009, understood their intent as the Civil War was ending. Perhaps a fountain's waters could mask the access to a permanent facility within.

Richard Kessler, Park Slope

Marty tolls

To the editor,

Marty Markowitz should be begging for tolls on the East River bridges ("Is the Beep all bark and no go on bridge tolls?" online, March 2). Most Brooklynites who commute to Manhattan do so by subway, and they are going to get slammed by

MARTY...

Continued from page 1

just such a toll last year.

"I have always maintained these tolls are a 'backdoor' to congestion pricing and are discriminatory, impractical, and impose an unfair 'tax' on Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx.... It is, of course, critical to find funding sources to close the city's growing budget gap in these tough economic times, but placing the burden unfairly on the backs of hard-working Brooklynites is not one of them."

Friday

Markowitz appears on Channel 4 news in a larger story about East and Harlem tolls.

"They're suggesting two bucks each way," he said in the interview, which took place in Markowitz's memorabilia-filled Borough Hall office. "Next year, the MTA is in trouble with money or a year later, you know what the first place they're going to go is: Let's raise the toll from two to four dollars each way."

Saturday

Markowitz attends a rally to save the B25 bus — a key link between East New York and Downtown — during the day. Though the event was not strictly "anti-toll," Markowitz decried service cuts as a punishment on working-class Brooklynites.

oughs outside Manhattan who are already underserved by public transit.... And make no mistake, this latest proposal to limit the toll to \$2 (the cost of a subway ride) is nothing more than an illusion. What they're not telling you is that it will be \$2 this year — next year it could be \$4."

Instead of a toll, Markowitz called for:

- a modest increase in the existing state gasoline tax for the entire metropolitan region.
- the reinstatement of the commuter tax.
- higher car registration fees.
- a new "Mega-Millions" lottery to mass transit.

Tuesday

Markowitz calls state Sen. Carl Kruger (D-Gravesend) to reiterate his position.

Kruger is already against bridge tolls. He has said he will not vote for any bill with a toll, his spokesman said.

Wednesday

Places calls to state Sens. John Sampson (D-Brownsville) and Dianna Savino (D-Bay Ridge). Savino has said she's "not sold on the need for East River tolls yet, but... not ready to dismiss it outright."

Sampson's position is unclear.

Also unclear is whether Markowitz pulled Savino onto his side. What is clear is that there have been plenty of comments from the Bee's constituents in reaction to The Brooklyn Paper's online coverage of his efforts.

"Marty is a clown," posted Eliot from Concord Village. "The vast majority of New Yorkers commute by subway and bus, and we're facing massive fare hikes! Why am I expected to pay \$3 to take the subway but the five percent of car commuters get a free ride? They can't pay \$2 to cross the bridge?"

"If Marty can't see all the benefits of tolls for his constituents, it's time for him to go," the post continued. "Good riddance to a bad joke."

Jabir Ibn Hayyan from Park Slope added: "What Marty's saying is [that] we need to make it as easy and as cheap as possible for the minority of car owners to drive around our borough, even at the expense of the majority of us who don't own cars and rely solely on public transit."

Ira from Marine Park added, "Unfortunately, for all of his big talk, Markowitz has been nothing more than a shell for Bloomberg. DO NOT TRUST HIM on the tolls issue. All he cares about is the Nets project. Bloomberg supported the project and now it has been clear what the price for that support is."

TOLLS...

Continued from page 1

like Silver is a Democrat, said in a statement.

Markowitz suggested other solutions, such as hiking the gasoline tax or re-enacting the commuter tax, to raise money for the MTA, which says it is facing a \$3.4-billion budget gap and must raise fares.

Markowitz's views are strongly echoed in neighborhoods like Bay Ridge, which have fewer mass transit options and longer commutes than the more congested neighborhoods like Park Slope and Brooklyn Heights.

But in the Brownstone Belt, where there was wider support last year for Mayor Bloomberg's failed congestion pricing plan that would have charged Brooklyn and Queens motorists for entering Ghatthan, Silver's toll goal renewed hopes that traffic might be reduced and mass transit would get a boost from the new revenue stream.

"It's not a question of slapping a penalty on people in the outly-

ing areas," said Michael Cairl, a transportation work on the Park Slope Civic Council, which backed bridge tolls earlier this month. "It could bring about some immediate benefits."

But tolling bridges could create a new set of harrowing problems, such as traffic gridlock at their entrances.

The state commission anticipated this aggravation by recommending the installation of unmanned tolls that allow drivers to pass through at higher speeds.

Transit rider groups also approved Silver's plan, which faces opposition from other Democrats in the legislature.

"His plan is very good news for eight million daily subway and bus riders and suburban commuters," said a statement from the Straphangers Campaign.

The group described the Silver model as "a compromise plan to prevent whopping subway, bus and commuter fare increases and devastating service cuts."

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IT'S A GERSHIT!!

Editor (and wife) is the star of park fundraiser

Look, I know I'm good-looking. I know my wife and I are the kind of couple that makes every married Brooklynite jealous. And I know that I have a great love of Prospect Park.

But how did I become the public face of philanthropy in the borough?

I started asking this question on Tuesday night, when, lo and behold, this e-mail popped into my inbox.

"Subject: Save the Date - Party for Playgrounds 2009," it read.

The rest of the message was the standard boilerplate reminding me to buy my ticket to the Prospect Park Alliance fundraiser for playgrounds on Friday, June 5.

I was about to delete it — "Charity?" I grumbled. "Are there no firehydrants in which the spoiled tots can recreate? Are there no broken glass-filled vacant lots?" — until I saw that a picture of myself, accompanied by my smiling wife, was one of the illustrations for the fundraiser.

This little me with the un-

mistakable conclusion: my wife and I are a power couple of Brooklyn philanthropy. Though the picture was uncaptioned, there could be no ignoring that the Pros-

pect Park Alliance believes — wrongly, I would argue — that when people see a picture of me, they will reach into their wallets and give heartily to charity.

Or maybe not. When I asked the Prospect Park Alliance what I had been chosen for, the group admitted its mistake. "Our apologies go out to all who cancelled their reservations after receiving this e-mail," said the Alliance's director of new media, Jesse Adelman. "Take a moment to reflect on the fact that we have a picture of you and your wife, one of the illustrations for the fundraiser."

Of course, I purchased the



Party for Playgrounds
7-9 p.m. at the Prospect Park Alliance
Contribute, have fun, and support Prospect Park's new recreation, imaginative, and wild play spaces.

Editor Gersh Kuntzman (with wife in center photo right) is apparently the draw at this fundraiser.

575 ticket — but not because I'm a latter-day Brooks Atterton, but because the playground party is one of the great events on the Brooklyn social circuit. The ticket price includes great food, booze and plenty of local celebs to schmooze, the usual trappings of the event. I usually find myself at the end of the night hopped up in the corner of the Boathouse, surrounded by empty beer bottles and singing happy birthday songs with Assemblywoman

Joan Millman. Like I said, a great time for a great cause — and, with a new great spokesperson! Prospect Park Alliance Party for Playgrounds, Friday, June 5 at the Audubon Center and Boathouse (center park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, (718) 965-8987, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75 and include dinner, cocktails and dancing (with Gersh Kuntzman).

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BEARDS IN B'KLYN...

Continued from page 1

Winning the "Recession Beard" prize — or any of the other facial hair categories contest next week at the Public Assembly club — will take more than color, length, width, and girth. It'll take heart.

"Beards carry an element of a person's personality — and we want to see that personality," said Adam, who sports a bushy full beard in a style called the "natural."

And there's no competitor who brings more personality — and well, more hair — to the stage than current World Champion Jack Passion, 25, whose red curls reach his bellybutton.

"ZZ Top crossed with ... ZZ Top," according to Passion, the rise of the competitive facial hair circuit is just a sign that facial hair is not longer a faux pas.



"There has always been facial hair since the dawn of man, but for the past 50 or 60 years, the shaving industry has been a very powerful force that has both figuratively and literally fleeced us," he said.

"But facial hair is back and it's going to be back in a big way," he said. "The New York title for best natural beard when the contest was last held in 2006."

The fuzziest, shaggiest, and longest-whiskered will

have a chance to showcase their personalities — and their mustachioed mates in categories including the best natural beard, which ranks unadorned scruff, and top mustache, where former Williamsburger and current New Jersey resident Natty Adams will test his waxed "There Will Be Blood"-style "beard."

"When I first grew it, I thought it was going to be fun, but it was the almighty well. This mustache was made for this — ormy face," said Adams, 25, whose fuzziest was made for this "mustache."

The 2009 New York City Beard and Mustache Championship will be held at the Public Assembly, 70 North Sixth Street between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 384-4586, 8 p.m. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. For info, visit www.bklynbeard.com. Participants must register by March 7.

"With them, the worse it is, the better it looks," said Successor category, you choose the beard that moves you the most. If you are a judge at a facial hair competition, you choose the beard that moves you the most. If you are a judge at a facial hair competition, you choose the beard that moves you the most. If you are a judge at a facial hair competition, you choose the beard that moves you the most.

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Notice of sale. Defendant, County of Kings, LLC, Black National Association, as trustee for the Defendant, County of Kings, LLC, 2008, Plaintiff, vs. Donald H. Hines, et al., Debtor(s). Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale dated 10/25/08, the undersigned trustee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse, Room 214, 560 Adams Street, Brooklyn, County of Kings, New York, on 4/22/09 at 2 p.m. pursuant to the terms of the mortgage, the following property: certain parcel of land with the building and improvements thereon, situated, lying and being in the New York City Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings and State of New York, Section 36, Block 1, Lot 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 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